NOES—18.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. ,, Paul V. Daniel.
3. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
4. ,, K. George.
5. ,, L. C. Hodgson.
6. ,, M. K. Khadir Pillai.
7. ,, R. Krishna Pillai.
8. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
9. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.
10. Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
11. ,, S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
12. ,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Ag. Director of Agriculture*)
13. ,, W. H. Pitt.
14. ,, C. Ramankunju.
15. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
16. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
17. ,, V. Subba Aiyar.
18. ,, A. J. Van Ross.

The resolution was declared lost.

Appointment of a Committee to Enquire into the Working of the Development Departments.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to move that:

"*This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to enquire into the working of the Development Departments, e. g., Agriculture and Fisheries, Industries, Co-operative Societies and Forests, and to suggest means by which better results may be obtained.*"

It is gratifying to see that the Travancore Government have realised to the full extent the necessity of developing the resources of the State with a view to national prosperity. The amount of money which is being willingly spent on the departments of education and public works and the growing interest evinced by the Government in strengthening the new bureaus of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation are being thankfully appreciated by the people. Pronouncements have been made from time to time regarding the careful preservation of our resources within the forests and the effective and profitable utilisation of that abundant source of natural wealth. But the finances of the State have not improved and the material welfare of the people has not adequately advanced in spite of the increasing clamour on the part of the people and the readiness of the Government to devote the funds at their command to the realisation of their laudable object. The time has come when we should take stock of the results hitherto obtained and examine the soundness of the policy hitherto pursued.

I shall first deal with the Forest Department. It was first organised in the time of Dewan Sir T. Madhava Rao, and is therefore the oldest of the present Development Departments. What strikes one at the outset of the enquiry is the manner in which its net income continues to be influenced by inexplicable variations.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

Year	*Net revenue*	*Year*	*Net revenue*
1087 ...	Rs. 2,83,383	1096 ...	Rs. 3,56,260
1090 ...	Rs. 5,40,839	1097 ...	Rs. 3,55,500
1093 ...	Rs. 8,64,955		

This rise and fall of the scale is unsatisfactory and inexplicable. It may be contended that the forests exist not for revenue primarily, and that the work of the department should not be measured by a pecuniary standard. That, however, is an idle defence. The consensus of educated opinion, the opinion of economists and financiers, establishes the principle that commercial advantage is one of the foremost objects of the scientific conservation of forests. Although the theory of the forest officers may be different, their practice has now for a long time been to get the largest possible revenue. The proceeds of the sale of timber during the last quarter in successive years will prove the correctness of this observation. The Government too have not been anxious to console the Forest Department when their revenues showed a decrease. Although during the last budget session, the Conservator of Forests pointed out that, because of the want of facilities of transport in other parts of the year, timber would be collected only during definite periods when the rivers were full and that accounted for the large quantities of timber in depôts at the end of the year, I am not inclined to accept this explanation because we find that there is abundance of stock in almost all the depôts during all times. Nor is there any paucity of purchasers. I am afraid that the argument of the Forest Department is not acceptable. The Administration Reports mention the fact that valuable trees such as teak and blackwood have been "over-cut"—I am using the expression "over-cut" in the sense in which it is used in the Administration Report—and dismal hints are given as to the possibility of a speedy extinction of those species of timber. The report for 1087 for instance refers to the decrease in the total quantity of teak available in the forests.

Conservator after Conservator has cultivated the habit of looking upon himself more as a revenue officer than as the guardian of the sylvan regions, interested in their healthy maintenance and gradual development as a permanent source of wealth. Valuable trees were felled from all accessible places, but adequate care had not been taken to safeguard natural regeneration or encourage plantations. Survey and demarcation are going on in a cycle without any ultimate goal, so far as we can see from the Administration Reports themselves. Creeper-cutting on an insignificant scale appears to be the only one of the important devices known to the department in helping the growth of trees. But the reports carefully omit the area over which this creeper-cutting was done or the amount of money expended on it. Fire-protection is done if at all in a perfunctory and fortuitous fashion. In 1082 only 2,827 acres, "being teak and other plantations," were under a regular

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

system of fire-protection. In 1084, 191 square miles of reserved forests were destroyed by fire. Some steps seem to have been then taken, and the next year we find that only 12 square miles were destroyed by fire. It is difficult to accept the figures for 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095 and 1096.

Year.	*Number of Sq. Miles burnt.*	*Year.*	*Number of Sq. Miles burnt.*
1091 ...	6	1094 ...	4
1092 ...	2	1095 ...	3
1093 ...	5	1096 ...	2

This would convey the idea that there is only a negligible portion of our forests that is being destroyed by fire year after year. So long as the reports do not state how this small area is ascertained, so long as the localities are not stated with precision, so long as this statement is not supported by cogent and creditable testimony, these figures cannot be relied upon as a practical guide. It is regrettable that even the available figures have not apparently been made use of by some of the representatives of the people. That is an unfortunate circumstance. It became evident in the Council yesterday that one of the members was not able to see where the figures for certain things have been given, although they related to matters in which he was personally interested. Copies of the Administration Reports are being given to all of us, and if a member, especially a highly educated, experienced gentleman goes through them and finds any statement which is palpably untrue he would not hesitate to ask for an explanation. It is for that reason that I asked the Chief Secretary when he was talking on the resolution regarding the Ayurveda Department whether any member had raised the question of the credibility of departmental figures. I am saying this simply because I should be glad to see that all my friends on this side of the House do scrutinise the figures very carefully. There are on this side gentlemen who have been studying statistics very carefully and the country has had the benefit of such scrutiny. I wish more people would do so in order to keep a vigilant eye on departmental figures.

The state of affairs in regard to communications in the forests is not at all satisfactory, and the amount of money spent in past years on original works of communication is very small indeed.

Year.	*Amount spent on communications.* Rs.	*Year.*	*Amount spent on communications.* Rs.
1084 ...	11,581	1093 ...	3,915
1087 ...	15,055	1096 ...	6,266
1090 ...	7,263	1097 ...	4,163

Even this small sum of money spent on roads and bridges has not been properly utilised. I have gathered some information with regard to the condition of the forest roads and bridges. I learn that the Parappar bridge in the Chendurni valley is not fit for use. The Achankoil Tara-Karippantodu road, the Kuttanpuzha-Idiyara road, the Aiyappan Koil road, the Perumpattur-Channakkaman road which was handed over to a Mica Company—all these are being neglected and rendered useless.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

A hide and seek policy encircles the working plans. The scheme of working plans was introduced, I believe, in 1082. Year after year the Administration Reports have had a long paragraph on working plans, and indistinct statements, ambiguous descriptions and pious expectations are recorded. But the work would not go on. In a few years the scheme of every sanctioned working plan was violated both as regards the method of work and the time prescribed. Finally the scheme was abandoned and, to quote the Administration Report, "simple working schemes were adopted in preference to costly and elaborate working plans." During the interval, however, a good deal of Government money had been spent on profitless purposes. It has been clearly demonstrated during the last budget discussion that the net profit realised by the Government on one cubic foot of timber is 1 anna 2 pies! This disappointing result is due to the time-honoured methods of extraction and transport. The work of collection is done in a pell-mell manner. Large stocks are allowed to accumulate in the forests as well as in depôts; the timber deteriorates, and is then sold for what it would fetch. Logs with serious flaws and defects are transported at considerable cost to the depôts and sold cheaply, sometimes at very great loss. There is no tariff for unsound timber. Round and square logs alone are sold by the department. Timber sawn to sizes according to the fashions ruling in the market will fetch a higher price; but the commercial knowledge of the departmental head and his officers is not in evidence. Sir, if trees grow in the forests according to their own accord, and if timber is to be floated down the rivers in times of flood, to be sold for whatever prices available, a high-paid trained scientist at the head of the department and a staff of England-returned assistants may not after all be necessary for the department. We want people to go to Europe and get a knowledge of the conditions there, because we hope that there may be some good accruing to the country as a result of their larger experience. Expectations of this nature are being often falsified. Time-honoured methods are faithfully followed. It is not for this that officers are sent to Europe at the expense of the tax-payer. I am sure that the present Conservator of Forests who is an experienced scientist will look into the matter and see if something cannot be done.

The figures relating to the profits from minor produce are equally unsatisfactory. In 1093, the amount was Rs. 34,176; in 1094, Rs. 46,065; in 1095, Rs. 36,792; and in 1096, Rs. 36,990. This is inexplicable. Considering the total area of the Travancore forests which are pronounced to be of magnificant quality by eminent authorities, this amount which the minor produce fetches is very low and the matter should be investigated. The efforts of the forest utilisation officers have not been great. The change of the headquarters of the Forest Department from Quilon to Trivandrum is another experiment. The starting of a separate Plantation Division, its maintenance for a number of years and its final amalgamation with the other divisions is another instance of uncertain action. The starting of the Forest School and its speedy abolition is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

still another mark of experimental originality. What is the sum total of the contributions of the various officers of the Forest Department? That is a question which the tax payer can legitimately ask. It is not enough if the officers make memories of their sojourn in Europe and their University Degrees a never-failing passport for promotion. They ought to infuse new vigour into the system, and if they are unable to do so they should concede that officers need not be sent to Europe for study at Government cost.

I now proceed to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Having been started about three decades ago by Dewan Sankarasubba Aiyar, and permitted for several years to take its innings in the field of lethargy, the department was reorganised by Sir Rajagopalachariar, and a gentleman who had a notable record in the Trivandrum College and the Edinburgh University was placed in charge of it. Rs. 23,000 was all that was alloted for the department in 1084, but the amount for 1097 was roughly Rs. two lakhs. The department has conducted numerous experiments and made frequent demonstrations. The encouragement of exotic paddy and Mauritius sugarcane, the introduction of artificial manures and improved ploughs, the advice given relating to seed selection, the attempt made to check the spread of the cocoanut palm disease, the inauguration of cattle farms and poultry farms—all these attest the good work already done. Nor have the Fishery and Veterinary branches been neglected. The reports of the Agricultural Department are so exquisitely worded, the facts so beautifully arranged and repetitions made with so much elusive originality that it is difficult to read between the lines. The work of analysing soils, the observation of the habits of fishes, the collection of insects, and experiments in mycology have been mentioned in all the Administration Reports. The Fisheries branch is also said to be doing good work; but the culture and curing of fish do not show very creditable results. The experiments made in order to find the proper habitat for sheep which was brought from Coimbatore and tried successively in Kottarakara and Trivandrum have not fared better. The receipts from backwater and inland fisheries are said to be Rs. 10,317 in 1097. This is not a matter over which the Government can take any credit. This is due to a stroke of the pen which levied a tax on fishing. The veterinary officers are said to be abroad and the number of animals treated in the veterinary hospitals and dispensaries seems to be on the increase! It was 10,300 in 1097, but the number cured does not find a place in the reports so far as I am able to see. The efficiency of the veterinary officers cannot be discovered without these figures.

Apart from all this, there are certain obvious defects in the organisation of the department. The agricultural laboratory at Quilon is far removed from scenes of kindred activity. The number of University men in the department is not sufficient. Has the department done all that it can in the matter of increasing production? The law of diminishing returns is tending to the exhaustion of the soil. Cattle and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

green manure are very difficult to obtain. There has not been yet a serious attempt to grapple with the situation. The charge of irrigation works has not been handed over to the Agricultural Department. Grazing grounds are not being properly conserved. This is a point on which I differ esesntially from the Director of Agriculture. He says that these grazing grounds will spread disease. The cultivation of fodder crops is still in the stage of a neglected experiment. It is not being done on a commercial scale and the department is not doing any poineer work in that direction. The Government cattle farm at Trivandrum should be able to have more cattle and perhaps it may also be useful to provide the milk supply in the city. But even the very thought of it does not seem to have been entertained. The Director who is capable of doing research work of a superior quality has to run up and down the country to auction away an unserviceable bull at Alwaye or to dispose off a few worthless spades and pickaxes in the Trivandrum cattle farm! It is unfortunate that such a talented agricultural chemist should be so cruelly weaned from the test tube and the spirit lamp. The Director ought occasionally to take the test tube. But I am afraid it is now too late because the gentleman has been out of touch with it for a long time. I don't think we are going to get the like of him for a long time to come so far as scientific knowledge is concerned.

The condition of the Department of Industries also merits a very careful enquiry. The heritage of difficulties which fell to the share of the present Director of Industries was not small. The initial mistake consisted, as several of us have observed on previous occasions, in putting an inexperienced man in a situation which required practical sagacity, a knowledge of men and affairs, and a thorough acquaintance with the peculiarities of the country. A Vice-Principal's place in the Training College was found to be unnecessary and the incumbent was sent to the Department of Industries with a flourish of trumpets! The Industries Department has hitherto cost the treasury a sum of about Rs. two lakhs. With this amount the salaries of officers were being liberally disbursed. The Government and the department are certainly interested in getting good work. But the results have not been adequate. A mass of common place information was collected and printed in the form of an authoritative book. All manner of fanciful experts were appointed. Factories of a description unnecessary and unsuited to our conditions were started. Machinery was ordered and paid for. I know of an instance in which the former head of the department even suggested that the price of the machinery might be paid before the work was completed. The 'essential oil' factory, the jaggery factory, the pencil factory, the bamboo depôt, the screwpine depôt, the apiary class, were all abolished. The Government ultimately discovered that the climatic conditions of Travancore were unsuited to the growth of lac insects and the shellac section was closed. But the climatic condition did not affect during all the years the institutions that have been

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

in existence. If the officers in charge of the department had only taken pains to learn this early from those who knew the conditions of the country, this waste could have been avoided. During these years of doubtful experiments and hypnotised prosperity, the sun rose and set as usual and the officers of the department counted the days of the month to affix their signatures to the salary bills or the acquittance roll. They were also engaged in bolstering up their own achievements. I give some samples taken from the Administration Reports. In the Administration Report for 1095 we come across the following sentence:

"The attempt to introduce bamboo-wares to European and Australian markets proved successful."

Here is another modest claim put forward by the department:

"For the sale of lace and embroidery the department succeeded in finding suitable markets in England, Belgium and Australia."

European and American countries were not ignorant of our wares until the Travancore Industrial Department showed them the way. But these fugitive experiments have cost more than two lakhs of rupees! In the meantime exhibitions on a large scale were organised. Rattan wares, brass vessels, superior laced cloths, the skins of tigers and cheetahs, and large bunches of cocoanuts were exhibited in neatly constructed ornamental *pandals* to the delectation of an admiring world. The officers of the respective departments with assumed jurisdiction over those inanimate objects appeared in grand complacence as though all the articles which had been exhibited by the owners formed a part of the contribution made by the respective departments to the cause of civilization. In the same way I feel sceptical about the claims of the Department of Industries to a share of the credit in creating the expectations which centre round the "Match Factory" and the "Travancore Sugars" which, however, has not yet descended from the ethereal regions of abstraction to the solid land of the living. The above-mentioned industries except perhaps the last were known to the people already, and the legitimate function of the department ought to be to give suitable advice and financial assistance under certain conditions. There are a number of qualified men with European degrees vegetating in the head office of the department without the facility for doing useful work. They draw their pay and indent upon the pleasures of imagination. Some of them have told me that they have not got sufficient work. I raised this point at the time when the budget was discussed in 1097 and on subsequent occasions. Government should allot sufficient funds to turn these people to good advantage. Just a few days ago I happened to visit the School of Arts where I found excellent jars made of granite. It was the first time I saw them although I had already heard a good deal about the new process invented by the Chemical Assistant. It is a pity that the manufacture of these wares is not extended. That is an instance in which an officer of the department has justified his existence but whose inventive genius has not been adequately encouraged. There is no definite plan of work assigned to the specialists. At any rate, the work done, when scrutinised

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

with the help of the Administration Reports, does not afford facts for which the department deserves any high congratulation. If facilities are not given to them while they are yet young and energetic, the spirit of the lotus-eaters would blow upon them and make them what they ought not to be. I hope the Director will tell the Council the quantity and quality of their work after the point was raised by me during the budget discussion in 1097.

The Co-operative Department is also forging ahead. The frequent changes in the personnel of the Registrar's office are responsible for some dislocation of work. Now that we have a competent man properly trained in the work he should be given sufficient encouragement in men and money. There is a large number of Inspectors in the department; but their salary is very low. I am not at all for lavishing money on any set of officers even if they belong to the Development Departments. But if the number stands in the way of granting them better pay we shall have to be satisfied with a few well-paid officers. Co-operative Inspectors on circuit have struck me as a kind of forlorn wayfarers and not as responsible and dignified officers of Government entrusted with important duties. This is due to the circumstance that they have not enough wherewithal to maintain their prestige. As it is a pioneer department the position and rank of its officers will weigh considerably with the people in deciding upon new ventures. The figures furnished in the Administration Report for 1097 raise certain interesting points. I find that, of the 367 societies in existence in 1097, so many as 72 were for Nairs, 33 for Christians 1 for Malayala Brahmins, 3 for Ezhavas, 20 for Arayans, 13 for Christian fisher-folk, 3 for Vellalas, 28 for Hindu and Christian Pulayas, 5 for Parayas, 1 for Velans, and 4 for artisan classes. The number of societies for the depressed classes is said to have risen from 44 to 66. How are these figures to be explained? The Christian community in Travancore is a very enterprising community always prepared to take time by the forelock and work for material welfare. But I find that so far as the co-operative department is concerned a different tale is told in the authorised Administration Reports. In 1097 there were 72 societies for Nairs while there were 32 for Christians. I do not know what is the root-cause of that. Possibly it is because the officers have been working more among the classes which ought to show some more enthusiasm in these matters. Anyhow I do not quite understand that. I am glad to find that the societies receive help from the Central Bank only to the extent of Rs. 95,000 or nearly 8½ per cent. of the total amount lent by them. Classified according to the purpose for which the loan was given, Rs. 1,33,000 was for productive purposes and one lakh for non-productive purposes. The increase in the loans for productive purposes and the preference displayed for short term loans are noteworthy and encouraging features.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I have attempted to satisfy the House that in the various Development Departments there have been uncertainty, indecision, waste, and an amount of chronic difficulty in coping with the vital problems. The question of funds has also been insuperable. A thorough enquiry is therefore absolutely necessary. Financial forecasts for a term of years, should be made before a settled plan of working the Development Departments may be adopted. We should first of all know where we stand, measure our strength and then undertake suitable projects. At present the Development Departments have their spheres cribbed and confined, each of them being content to keep the show going without clear ideas of harmonious co-ordination. The Economic Development Board is a more comprehensive organisation though its work is less intensive. But that also is inadequate. The function of the committee that I propose is broader and more general. The committee should have the authority to lay down the principle while the Economic Development Board and the various departments should do the work in the manner prescribed. Experts and laymen will have to be represented in the committee, which, however, should not be unwieldy. The rectification of past mistakes as far as possible, and the laying down of a safe and suitable course for the future should be its paramount function. This should be done after a thorough investigation of present conditions and a study of the past as a guide to the future.

Sir, we have now got all the usual exhibits in the show of agricultural and industrial development. No modern State can be without them all for purposes of use no less than to feed the imagination. An esteemed friend of mine once told me that States do have to maintain all the different Development Departments in the same manner as the heads of certain Hindu religious organisations are obliged to maintain elephants, palanquins, horses and camels to show off their greatness. But it is better, rationally speaking, to do away with these poor animals than keep them half-starved and emaciated. I do not believe in the usual excuse of want of funds. A way should be made, if one cannot be found, which will enable us to obtain the money required.

I thought it desirable to discuss this question in order to secure the economic welfare of the people as well as a strong financial position for the Government. Political and social justice is the essential condition of material and moral development. Inequality of income is both the cause and the result of a bad system of economic development The relations between the fiscal system and the state of industrial and commercial prosperity are reciprocal and intimate. In the first place taxation, whether direct or indirect, should be according to the real capacity of those who are to pay the contribution.

PRESIDENT: We are not discussing finance.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am referring to that to show the connection between taxation and industrial prosperity. I am not referring to it in any detail.

PRESIDENT: Finance is essential for all parts of the administration.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[MR. L. C. Hodgson.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Yes; it is essential for industrial prosperity also. An industry can thrive only when the taxation system is proper and equitable and can stand the test of reason.

PRESIDENT: You are raising a much larger issue than is contemplated by the resolution.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): The wider issue is necessary for a proper consideration of the resolution, but I do not want to dilate upon that. Historical accidents should not be allowed to press down on those who are suffering from the sins of a bad system. According to the present arrangements the individual who makes less than Rs. 2,000 a year from trade need not pay income-tax. The rich man has not to pay more for his salt and his matches than the poor man. But land revenue is like a tyrant who would not permit any one, however fragile, to escape his hard grip. The cultivator may have no food for himself and his children, he may have no lamp to clear up the terrors of darkness, he may not have a splinter of fire-wood with which he may warm himself in a cold night, but the Revenue Recovery Act and the authority of the *Proverthicar* would not excuse him. We have been reminded that on an average a Travancorean has only 10 cents of land where he may cultivate paddy. Therefore the necessity of finding other occupations is all the greater. The Director of Public Instruction took a definite attitude yesterday when he said that no kind of vocational instruction might be imparted to boys or girls in our schools. The Director, Sir, is a good classical scholar who has been responsible for creating a literary taste among his students. But a gentleman who always rides on Pagasus and quenches his thirst at Parnassus would not be able to comprehend the condition of a people who go without food, who have nothing useful to do, and who are miserable in the ordinary affairs of life. I fear, Sir, that the point raised by Mr. Hodgson was nothing more than a battle of words. I am referring to this to show that in considering the question of industrial regeneration the connection of industrial activity with the kind of education imparted in our schools is a very important one which may be always kept in view—a question which should come within the purview of the proposed committee.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up; you have already taken 40 minutes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I beg your pardon. I shall be very brief.

Sir, I have got an extract which is rather long which I have taken from the *Dictionary of Education*. It gives the history of manual training in different countries. There is absolutely nothing to prevent us from introducing weaving, cooking, spade-work, house wifery and similar subjects in our schools.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): May I know whether he means schools of general or technical education?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In schools of general education, for one period a day, some useful handicraft may be taught, and it will not collide with the jurisdiction of manual training. Mr. Hodgson tells us that manual training and vocational instruction are essentially dissimilar in object and method. Mr. Hodgson tells us that it is his own opinion and he is unable to refer to any published work of authority. Sir, books do count in courts of law and legislative councils and I do not apprehend a contradiction from one who has spent the best part of his life among books. I maintain, Sir, that vocational education is very closely related to manual training, and though they may not both be of the same species they are at least of the same genus. The Travancore authority on manual training, the one admitted to be such by Mr. Hodgson himself, has very often emphasised the usefulness of teaching rattan work in schools. The evidence of the expert is conclusive, at any rate, against the Director of Public Instruction who has deliberately accepted his authority.

MR. L. C. HODGSON (*Director of Public Instruction*): May I explain myself in regard to this point? Mr. Green certainly advocated rattan work and I advocated its teaching; but it was not for its being sold in the market, but for the students knowing the manufacture.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I shall make my position clearer still. I want the boys and girls in the schools to learn these so that when they go out of the schools they may make some profit. I do not want them to make any profit while at school.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know from Mr. Velu Pillai whether rattan-making is being taught in these schools?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): That is a question which may be put to the Director of Public Instruction as he is in charge of the department.

PRESIDENT: He cannot put it to him now. The Director of Public Instruction is not in possession of the House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I mean when the Director begins to talk.

It seems to me there is no inconsistency, no incompatibility between general instruction and vocational training. A few months ago I read a book on the defence of classical education by Mr. Livingstone of the Belfast University and I learnt from it that the German boy who is more careful of the things of this world than anyone else is made to learn Greek and Latin along with German, and that classical education does make him a better artisan. Culture of any kind, Sir, is not possible without food, and if the Director of Public Instruction hopes that the seeds he is sowing should sprout, that Ezhuttachan and Kalidasa and Shakespeare should be read by future generations, I venture to tell him

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

that poverty should be assuaged as a kind of condition precedent to further welfare. We talk of the elevation of the depressed classes. It is a legitimate and a proper object. But let us not confine our attention to those alone whose ancestors were depressed and destitute of means of livelihood. Let us also take a thought after the depressed classes of the future. Charity is most deservedly our household divinity, but we should not permit poverty to develop into a household curse. "The shallow rich," said Bagehot, "talk much of the turbulence of the poor and their tendency to agitate. But it is the patience of the poor that most strikes those who know them." There is no justification for the Government in not attempting to assure every individual member of the State a reasonable chance of earning his livelihood.

Henry IV of France is reported to have said that every peasant should have a fowl in his pot. And the great Englishman whose celebrated powers of oratory were equalled only by his militant philanthropy, Edmund Burke, who gave the full reins to his benevolence in pleading the case of the helpless Indians, modified this famous statement and observed that every peasant in India should have rice in his pot. That, Sir, is the object which the Government should strive for. There is a belief among Hindus that a person's soul will be happy in Heaven so long as his good reputation lasts in this world. The western saying, "the voice of the people is the voice of God", is equally eloquent. It is this history recorded in a people's heart that should be the endeavour of our development officers to create, and not the ephemeral promotions and formal appreciation in administration reports.

It is in this spirit that I expect the Development Departments to perform their functions. There is no compartmental system in pursuing the work of nation-building. It is the mutual integration of the various departments that this Council ought to visualise. A system of co-ordination, a clear conception of a good porgramme of work, a reasonable capacity to forecast results in the light of the possible development of society—these are the factors which should be appreciated by all the Development Departments. The committee which I advocate should have functions distinct and separate from those of the various Development Departments. Its sphere should be different from the Economic Development Board. The committee is intended for a higher purpose. Its main duty should be to verify the results that have been already achieved and to take stock of our present economic situation, with its eye towards the dawn of the future with a telescope which can be turned up and down, with a memory of the past and an imagination fertile and reliable enough to fix the constellations in the social and economic firmament of the future. I trust that the resolution will meet with the kind approval of the House.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): I second the resolution.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Sir, I beg to support the resolution moved by Mr. Velu Pillai, and I wish to make a few observations. When the Government sanctioned the industrial survey of the State at the eleventh session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, we entertained very great hopes that valuable information would be available to the Government to develop the industries of the State. But the report that was published after three years of waiting was a sad disappointment. The information supplied therein was inaccurate and copied from Government publications issued twenty years before. The subsequent achievements of the officers of the Industries Department were as unsatisfactory as the previous ones. No organised effort to develop the existing industries or to introduce new ones has been made by them. No comprehensive and definite scheme of industrial policy has been planned by them. The only achievement, during a long career of about four or five years, was probably the sending out of three or four students to England and the publication of a few bulletins, which are more or less extracts from the *Encyclopædia Britannica* or the articles from the *Fauna and Flora* of Travancore. From the address of the Dewan to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly during the last two years, it is seen that the Government recognised that the work of the department was not satisfactory. The Dewan devoted a large portion of his address to the work of this department. The students who have been sent to England for training have returned. The Dewan, no doubt, foreshadowed the work that was to be done by these students. In that address too, I do not find any comprehensive scheme of industrial policy laid down by the Government. Of course, students who are deputed to specialise in certain industries will have to do some work. I refer to these matters because previously also some students were sent to specialise themselves in geology. Those students produced no tangible benefit to the country. All that I now want the attention of the Government to be drawn to is the fact that the officers of the department have no experience. I do not know whether they have got the talent or even the desire to improve the industrial condition of Travancore. But, at any rate, it is the duty of the Government to see that persons who have got sufficient experience are appointed for compiling a comprehensive scheme of industrial regeneration of the country. Unless the services of these students are properly utilised to the best advantage of the country, the tax-payers' money spent upon them will not be of any use. Therefore, it appears to me, Sir, that the administration of the department requires careful consideration at the hands of the Government.

The activities of the Co-operative Department also are far from satisfactory. The attitude of the Government, I am sorry to say, has not been very encouraging, at any rate, till a few years ago. During the last four or five years there were four or five officers to preside over that department. The officers who were trained for this purpose do not remain long in that department to enable them

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

to do any useful work. There was no sufficient co-ordination between the various departments relating to the development of the country. This aspect of the matter should engage the attention of the Government who should make this institution useful to the people. The department has not taken firm root in the country. Whether it is due to the fact I mentioned or not I do not know. It is capable of further improvement and the attention of the Government may be directed to that. For these and other reasons, I urge that a committee ought to be appointed and the whole question should be investigated and a definite and comprehensive scheme should be laid down.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, the mover of the resolution has placed a big order in recommending the appointment of a committee to go into the question of the working of the various departments, including the Forest, Agriculture, Industries and the Co-operative Departments.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I have no objection to include other departments.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, with regard to the Forest Department, about which Mr. Velu Pillai was speaking rather at length, I have to say that some of the criticisms which he has advanced are to some extent true. But, personally speaking, it is a department which cannot be improved all on a sudden. In reviewing the administration of the Forest Department one has to bear in mind that results can be had only after the lapse of a long time. Works connected with sylviculture, conservancy and protection do not immediately show their results. The success or otherwise of a forest area managed systematically under working plans will be discernible only after a long interval of years.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know how much money was spent for cultural operations in the forests during 1098.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I must look at the figures. Does the member want the information just now?

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I do not want exact figures. I want only some idea of it.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Including plantations it will come to about Rs. 45,000.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Including teak plantations?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): About Rs. 50,000.

I have taken the work of a period of thirty years to show what the development has been in this department. Thirty years ago nobody knew anything about the forests of the State. They had no idea as to what the extent of the land was, and what resources it contained

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

In 1886, Mr. Bourdillon was appointed as special officer to make a thorough examination of the forests of the State, "to mark and define the tracts which should be permanently reserved, and to submit a report on their resources, etc." The report was submitted by him after doing three years' work, and that gave an idea of the resources of the forests. Prior to the year 1068, there was no forest law or regulation to legalise reservation of forests, to regularise the extraction of timber, and to punish offences connected with forest crimes. Regulation II was passed in that year, and rules were also framed under it. They were amended as necessity arose. With the passing of this Regulation, the department entered on another stage of development, and the reservation of forest areas was taken up immediately. At the end of the year 1068, the area of the forests brought under reservation was 1,433 square miles. In 1078, the area under this category came to 1,653 square miles; at the end of 1088 and 1098—the last two decades—the areas were 2,337 and 2,381 square miles respectively.

Simultaneously with the reservation of forests, the demarcation of these reserves was also taken up. It was not only necessary that the forest areas should be reserved but that the areas should be demarcated, so that trespassers might be punished and the Government might know exactly what their forest area was. This work was taken up subsequently.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For how many years in the past has this demarcation work been going on?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The volume of work we have had to do was rather large. The work was taken up in right earnest only after the time of Dewan Rama Row, *i. e.*, after 1063, and we have now nearly finished the work. The work was not begun before 1068. The total number of square miles demarcated to the end of 1078 was 266; 693, to the end of 1088; and 1022, to the end of 1098. We have only about 123 square miles to be demarcated.

With the reservation of areas and their demarcation, the next step to be undertaken was the preparation of working plans to regulate the removal of timber according to the capacity of the forests. At first, it was thought that regular working plans, prepared with great details at considerable cost, would be required for working our forests. But, later on, experience showed that with the changed condition of the timber market, and the introduction of more species into the market, the working plans required revision. It was found that the cost involved in the preparation of elaborate working plans was rather too much, and that they did not satisfy the purpose for which they were required.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know how much money was spent in the preparation of detailed working plans.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): About Rs. 60,000.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

It has now been decided to have only simple working schemes for the present. The areas for which regular working plans have been sanctioned and for which simple working schemes have been prepared at the end of each decade are shown below:

1068	No regular working plan.	No simple working scheme.
1078	Do.	Do.
1088	Regular working plans for 77 sq. miles.	Do.
1098	Do. for 750 sq. miles.	Simple working schemes for 336 sq. miles.

For the year 1098, detailed working plans for 750 square miles were available, while for an area of 336 square miles simple working schemes were also prepared.

At the commencement of the period under review, the removal and disposal of timber and forest produce were carried out most unsystematically. Consumers generally met their requirements by taking out permits for what timber they required on payment of the then existing seigniorage rates which were not fixed with any reference to the demand or market conditions. Every one armed with such a permit could gain access to the reserves and remove what he required. There was neither the system of marking nor other efficient control over removals, and much of the privilege was abused. This permit system was abolished in 1076. The timber worked down through the contract agency to the depôts— which were rather limited in number—consisted chiefly of teak and blackwood. These were sold on a monopoly system to one purchasing firm of Bombay, which had thereby the control of the market in their hands. Junglewood species had very little demand, nor were they worked down to our depôts, and no advantage was taken of the demand of foreign markets for these species. The monopoly with the Bombay firm was abolished in the year 1087. From that year the department began to seek foreign markets and take the best advantage of them. Royal trees as well as junglewoods were worked down both by departmental agency and under the contract system. Markets were created for species till then unmarketable or for which no demand existed. After a time, as an experimental measure, timber coupes were marked out in forest areas and sold for lump sums at auctions, but it was found that owing to the incorrect valuation of tree growth and the competition of coupe purchases in timber trade, the departmental revenue was prejudicially affected and depôt sales were greatly interfered with. The coupe sale system was therefore given up and, at present, the system of extraction and disposal has been thoroughly systematised.

During the last decade or so, the department has been endeavouring to restrict the felling and removal of royal trees as far as possible except from private lands, and more attention is being bestowed upon the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

working down and utilisation of inferior species which were, in days past, considered to be of no value whatever. Mr. Velu Pillai has been alluding to the fact that only royal trees were being worked from the forest and he referred to the Administration Report of 1082. It is a fact that in 1082, and even for a period of six years or so, the working of timber has been mostly confined to teak and blackwood. Consequently, reference was made to this in the Administration Report. In 1097, we put a stop to the removal of teak and other royal trees from inside the reserves, and the extraction was confined mostly to the areas outside the reserves, as we wanted to introduce into the market other species for which hitherto there was no sale or demand.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does the department allow the owners of registered lands where old blackwood and other royal trees are standing, to cut and make use of them?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The Government have a claim for about half the net profit on those trees. If the owners would pay the *kudivila* on these royal trees, they can remove them.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know how many cubic feet of teak and how many cubic feet of blackwood were so used by the people?

PRESIDENT: You mean—"permitted to be extracted by the owners themselves?"

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Permitted to be extracted and used. I want the quantity.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is not possible to give that quantity now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Shall I have an idea of the price of the timber which has been used *bona fide*?

PRESIDENT: You mean the value of the trees removed? For which year do you want the information?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For 1097 and 1098. I want only a rough idea.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It may come to about Rs. 3,000.

In the earlier days of the period under review cottonwood and *chini* were the only softwood species mostly in demand by consumers, and these fetched on an average only Rs. 4 to Rs. 4½ per candy. Not only have the prices of these species come up to about Rs. 8 to Rs. 9 per candy, but other species such as Anjili, Kulamavu, etc., have also been tried and found suitable and now fetch almost similar rates. Besides these, innumerable other softwood species have been tested, to ascertain their suitability for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

matches, wood pulp, etc., and they are being gradually used for these purposes and even bamboo and other reeds are now largely in demand for paper, making—manufacture of matches, etc. The average revenue derived from the sale of timber and other forest produce during the three decades will give an idea of the progress the department has been making,

	Annual average revenue from timber.	*Average annual revenue from other products.*
1068—1078 ...	4,75,988 ...	29,751
1079—1088 ...	7,34,743 ...	6,55,720
1089—1098 ...	11,79,598 ...	1,36,029

The gross revenue secured by the department during each of the three decades stands thus:—

1069—1078 ...	Rs. 5,37,904
1079—1088 ...	Rs. 8,43,230
1089—1098 ...	Rs. 1,40,057

If we take the average annual net revenue, that also shows a steady increase. The following are the figures—

1069—1078 ...	Rs. 2,11,425
1079—1088 ...	Rs. 2,68,143
1089—1098 ...	Rs. 6,20,052

PRESIDENT: You mean the net revenue?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes; the average net revenue. Mr. Velu Pillai has been referring to the fluctuation of revenue for a few years. It is not possible for the department to equalise the revenue every year.

The timber that is worked down in one year may or may not be sold and apart from this the revenue realised depends on several other factors. For instance, in 1097, it was Rs. 5 lakhs and in 1098 it was Rs. 3½ lakhs. The revenue realised in 1097 was greatly on account of the supply of sleepers to the South Indian Railway Company. But in 1098 no sleeper supply was undertaken, while a large quantity of the resulting material from the conversion of sleepers was brought into the depôt for which, owing to the dullness of the market, there was no demand.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Was the sleeper supply taken up by the Government for the purpose of forest conservation or for making a profit?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): After the conclusion of the Armistice there was no great demand for timber. Prices were also steadily going down. It was as a tentative measure that the supply of sleepers to the railway company was undertaken. Personally I am not in favour of sleeper supply to the railway company. It was mostly to find a sale for the timber and also to realise the value immediately that we undertook the sleeper supply.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The percentage of the amount spent on conservancy works will give a fair idea of the works of improvement done and the consequent development of the forests. The following averages furnish an index in this direction:

1069—1078	...	Rs. 2,50,416
1079—1088	...	Rs. 4,38,234
1089—1098	...	Rs. 5,21,279

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai also said that we were not spending sufficient money on communication. He further added that many of the roads opened at great cost were lying idle.

PRESIDENT: He did not say 'idle.'

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): As regards the Parappar road, it is being used even now.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Parappar is not a road but it is a bridge.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I mean the road leading to the Parappar bridge. But I do not know where he got this information from.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): If he puts a question I am prepared to answer.

PRESIDENT: He is only contradicting your statement. He is not putting a question.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Then he must not say that.

PRESIDENT: He does not put you a question. He wonders where you should have got that information.

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The road at Aiyappankoil is also being used every year and the maintenance of that is being met from the Public Works Department. With regard to the Channakkanan road, the Mica Company undertook the repair of this road. But somehow or other the mine did not work, and the road cut up by them was left as such. The matter has been reported to the Government. At present we are not doing any timber extraction that side, and so there is no immediate urgency to repair it.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I know why the road was handed over to the Mica Company?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): When they started work they undertook to keep the road in good condition.

Mr. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Does the department hand over roads to other companies?

Mr. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): At the time the mica mine started work there were no culverts. The company wanted to keep the road in a better condition. With this idea they cut up the road for constructing culverts, but the company did not work, and so the road was left in the same condition. Now they have taken steps to improve the road. With regard to the Kuttanpuzha road, it is in good order.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): The road from Kuttanpuzha to Idiyara is what I mentioned.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This road is in perfect condition and I have walked along it several times. Carts are not taken now over this road, because there is no timber work that side. The following average shows what amount we have been spending in the matter of communication every year.

1069—1078	Rs. 9,353
1079—1088	Rs. 24,511
1089—1098	Rs. 22,863

Mr. Velu Pillai said that in 1084 we have been spending a large amount while in 1096 the amount was not much. Sir, it was about 1084 that we undertook the construction of the Shendurni road, and after its completion, there was no further necessity to spend any large sum of money.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to correct my friend. I never said at any time that the Forest Department had spent much money. My accusation was that they have been spending only a very small sum.

PRESIDENT: He says that you are not spending a large sum of money.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not believe in spending more money on roads where there is no necessity. In the northern division the transport of timber is done not by roads but only along rivers, and during the last two years we have been spending much money in blasting the rocks in these rivers. In these divisions there is no necessity to spend money on roads. The only divisions where we have to open roads are the Shenkottah and Southern divisions. And in these divisions, at present, there is no immediate urgency to open further roads as the roads in existence serve the purpose of timber transport.

In the budget session of the Council I said that investigation had to be carried on for extending the present road in the Shendurni forests, and for this purpose, I inspected the forests there recently during the Christmas holidays, and the question now is whether we should open further roads or improve the Shendurni road, and the matter is being referred to the Government.

Another important direction in which development has been taking place in the department is in regard to the opening of artificial plantations. Mr. Velu Pillai also referred to that fact. The areas brought under plantations at the end of each decade stands thus :—

	1078	...		2,016 acres.
At the end of	1088	...	Teak	3,110 ,,
Do.	1098	...	Do.	6,726 ,,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I only referred to the plantation.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is a technical matter.

During this period we have not only confined ourselves to the improvement of the forests but the department had also been developing in other directions. The following figures furnish some idea of the steps taken for the detection of forest offences and for the protection of forests.

	Average No. of cases per year.	*Average No. disposed of annually.*
1068—1078 ...	227	198
1079—1088 ...	474	458
1089—1098 ...	746	738

Simultaneously with the development of forests the number of hands trained in forestry on the staff was also increased. We were for a long time dependent on the Forest College of Dehra Dun, for securing training to our men. But seeing that the progress made was rather slow, a Forest College was opened here, and we were able to train 36 men in a period of two years. Prior to 1068 the department was manned mostly by untrained hands. We have at present 3 officers trained in European Universities, 15 men trained at the Forest College, Dehra Dun, and 13 men trained at Coimbatore.

There are also some other points referred to by Mr. Velu Pillai. He mentioned that our revenue was rushed up towards the last part of the year. Last year I explained to the House the reasons for this. Mr. Velu Pillai refuses to be convinced of that.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not say that with reference to any particular year. I was referring not to a particular period, but to a long period.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I explained that, unless the monsoon season changed or the official year was altered, it was not possible to make the realisation of the revenue uniform throughout the year.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is the Conservator in a position to say whether there was not sufficient stock in the depôts before the monsoon time?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It was explained to the House last time how the stock worked down during the last four or five years accumulated in the depôts as a result of our endeavour to help the expansion of the rubber plantation.

PRESIDENT: We shall now rise and meet again at 3.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M. and reassembled at 3 P. M.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, from what I have been saying it will be clear that the Forest Department has been making some progress. Of course, it is incidental that any department should make mistakes and I admit it so far. As regards the formation of a committee, I ask this House whether it will in any way improve matters and how far it will be in a position to help us is a question to be decided. The department has been working in a systematic way for nearly thirty years, and during this period we have been able to build up a policy and we have been working the department, so that there has been some steady progress taken as a whole. Is it possible for a committee—working for one or two years—to come to any definite conclusion with regard to those things? Then, if a committee is to be appointed, only some of the heads of the Development Departments will have to be in it. We have already a committee—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is not a committee possible without any of the heads of the Development Departments? Why not they be examined as witnesses by the committee?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): A committee of non-official members will naturally contain laymen and when it has taken such a long period for us to build up the policy, I am of opinion that a committee of laymen will not be of much help to us, and if they want to give us instructions and if they want to come to our help, they are equally welcome to make representations before the Economic Development Board, of which four members are elected by this House.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Will the Conservator say whether there are not several hundreds of square miles of grass lands without any useful tree-growth including even the reserved forests?

PRESIDENT: What is it, please? I do not hear you.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): Whether there are not several hundreds of square miles of grass lands without any useful tree-growth in the High Ranges?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There are places, Sir, consisting of grass lands.

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade* cum *Devicolam*): May I also know whether there are not many small reserves in the low country which have not got any species of valuable timber?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Each reserve has its own value. Though there may not be tree-growth, it may be valuable for grazing, for the collection of fodder and for pasture.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. DOMINIC TOMMAN (*Peermade cum Devicolam*): Are there any such reserves set apart as grazing lands?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): All the reserves are kept free for grazing, except in plantations, to every subject of His Highness the Maha Raja.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether he is following the policy of his predecessor.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I had so many predecessors. I do not know which predecessor is being referred to.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The last predecessor.

PRESIDENT: The immediate predecessor.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not know whether there is any policy which can be ascribed to my predecessor. In fact I am talking of my own policy.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know the plan that the present Conservator is following?

PRESIDENT: Is it in regard to the working plans?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Or anything else.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have a policy of my own, Sir.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion. All the departments, to enquire into the working of which Mr. Velu Pillai wants to appoint a committee, are, as the mover himself has admitted on former occasions, highly technical, and I doubt very much whether a lay committee will be able to formulate a scheme of work for each of these departments. These departments are now assisted by a standing committee in the shape of the Economic Development Board which consists of elected representatives of this Council including Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, and some of the best technical, industrial and commercial gentlemen of the country. This Board can boast of a non-official majority and is at liberty to call for any information from the Development Departments and to formulate any scheme of work for these departments. I fail to—

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I ask Mr. Chacko whether the constitution of the Economic Development Board permits of an enquiry into the working of these departments as suggested by Mr. Velu Pillai?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): They can call for information, and can formulate any scheme of work and submit it to the Government.

I fail to percieve what more a committee of the kind proposed by Mr. Velu Pillai can achieve than the Economic Development Board.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. I. C. Chacko.]

As regards the Department of Industries, I have further to say that, such a department being quite new even in British India, it may not be possible for us to get experts even from there to serve on the committee and speak with the authority of long experience of the management of Departments of Industries. Departments of Industries began to be seriously and systematically organised in India, including the Indian States, only after the appointment of the Indian Industrial Commission in 1916. It cannot be said that the time that has elapsed is sufficient to enable us to form definite conclusions regarding the lines on which a Department of Industries should be conducted and to revise its methods.

The functions of a Department of Industries have been thus defined by the Industrial Commission:

"The work of the Provincial Departments of Industries—

Of course, the Travancore Department of Industries may be put under the category of the Provincial Departments of Industries.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Chacko, if our department is a provincial department, where is the central department so far as Travancore is concerned?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I did not mean it in relationship to a central department.

These are the functions:

"The direct encouragement of industries, including a larger share in industrial research work, the provision of technical advice and assistance to industrialists, the examination of applications for special concessions, and the grant of loans to small and cottage industries.

The collection and distribution of commercial and industrial intelligence; the work of passing Government indents and of purchasing and inspecting certain classes of Government stores; the organisation of markets for local products; the conduct of special enquiries and industrial surveys; the holding of industrial exhibitions and the management of commercial and industrial museums.

The control of technical and industrial education. This would necessitate the training of staff for, and the inspection of, industrial schools; the organisation and inspection of apprentice classes attached to a large work, and the provision of the staff for the necessary theoretical teaching. The Director would also have to take his share in the control of the higher institutions for technical training. Funds for technical and industrial education would be provided from this budget.

The control of the staff employed for the local administration of the Electricity Factories and Boiler Acts; and the furnishing of advice to Government on the industrial and commercial aspects of the Mines Act and of the rules for mining leases and prospecting licenses."

Now, I would ask the Council whether the Department of Industries in Travancore does not cover the province enunciated for a Department of Industries by the Industrial Commission as far as the conditions of the State permit. We have not got a Mines Act here. So the Department of Industries does not administer a Mines Act. Again the Report speaks of the Electricity Act. But the Department

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of Industries does not administer an Electricity Act, because we have no electricity here now. As regards the Boiler Act, the department is looking after boiler inspection.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): A word of personal explanation, I think, has to be offered, and it will be useful to Mr. Chacko. My point is not that a committee should be appointed to add to or remove the duties. I am for a committee for efficiently co-ordinating the different Development Departments, laying out a policy which may be enforced for some twenty-five or thirty years together and for making suitable recommendations to the Government as to how much money can be ear-marked for certain industrial, agricultural, and other purposes.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): A great part of Mr. Velu Pillai's speech, I have already said, is covered by the activities of the Economic Development Board. The primary object of the Board is to co-ordinate the activities of all the Development Departments.

The Council will see that the department is striving to attain the ideals thus set out by the Industrial Commission, and it is not yet time to revise these recommendations. The industrial commission is only about six years old. An economic theory cannot be verified in a day and economic experiments must be allowed a sufficiently long time before conclusions are drawn therefrom. I do not think that a sufficient number of new data have accumulated since the time of the industrial commission which will justify the appointment of a committee for the purpose of reviewing their conclusions.

I will now read out a sample list of industries which the Industrial Commission has recommended as deserving aid by provincial Departments of Industries.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know from Mr. Chacko whether it is not the function of the Industries Department to introduce improvements in the existing industries and whether the department has collected information as to the various industries in the State?

PRESIDENT: You may wait till the end of his speech, and if he does not give the information which you want, you may question him.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I am reading the sample list and I will answer Mr. Sankara Menon's question afterwards. The first in the list is the saltpetre industry which we need not think of. Then there is glass making to which the Geological Department has already devoted some attention. It has collected information regarding the materials available in Travancore, and in due course, the Department of Industries will take up the question of introducing glass manufacturing into Travancore. Of course we cannot take up all these things all at once. The third is oil-milling. There is an oil-milling industry already existing in Travancore, but there is still scope for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

improvement. We can introduce a great many improvements in oil-milling and the utilisation of oils. Then comes the match industry.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know where that Oil Expert is now?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): He is now working in the laboratory. You meant the Oil Chemist?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I mean the Oil Expert.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): The next is flour and rice milling which also is such a thriving industry in Travancore that it does not require much help from the Department of Industries. But we are advising the rice-millers about improved methods of drying paddy and of cheapening power and such other questions as are referred to us. Then we come to pumping plant.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Has any bulletin been issued on the subject of improved methods of rice-milling?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): None on rice-milling. We are investigating the methods of drying boiled paddy. In Travancore they usually boil paddy and then mill it. The boiled paddy is usually dried in the sun. A firm of rice-millers applied to us for advice as to how boiled paddy could be dried cheaply in the rainy season. We are trying to devise a plan for making use of the waste gases from boilers for this purpose. These things we cannot do in a minute. We have to consult very many experts, get quotations from abroad, devise many schemes and find out their comparative merits.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know whether the investigation in regard to that is complete?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): No; it is not complete.

As regards pumping plant, the Industrial Commission recommends that the pumping operations should be under the control of the Department of Industries. Only the other day the Council sanctioned a sum of Rs. 15,000 for the purchase of a boring set. Then again we are very deeply concerned with pumping in another shape, *viz.*, for draining the *punja* fields, and the Industrial Engineer and myself have been making investigations to reduce the cost of pumping. The efficiency of a pump used in the *punja* field is only about 20, *i. e.*, if we put in 100 h. p. we get only 20.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): With your permission—I do not want to interrupt Mr. Chacko—I wish to obtain a ruling from the Chair. I am the principal speaker on this resolution. I raised certain points. I do not question all that Mr. Chacko is saying. My point is that several mistakes have been committed by the Industrial Department, among other departments,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

because the people who dealt with the affairs of these departments did not look sufficiently forward. That is the point I raised. The discussion can be shortened considerably by answering the point directly. Sir, I am prepared to concede all that Mr. Chacko says. But, how does he meet the further argument that something more than the Economic Development Board is required for the purpose of co-ordination for which I am particularly anxious? That is my point.

PRESIDENT: Well, he may not look at it from the same view-point as you do. He might consider it necessary, for the House to arrive at a correct decision, to offer the House some information as to what the department has already done and on what lines the department is working, as also to show, according to him as I understand him, that a committee cannot suggest improved lines in a day or any short period—improved lines of activity for the department. I think that is the line of argument he is taking, and for that purpose, I think, all that he says is necessary for the information of the House.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Another industry which the Industrial Commission recommends is hand-weaving. I believe the Council knows that we have done a good deal to develop hand-weaving in Travancore.

The next thing they suggest is tanning. We are already constructing an experimental tannery for demonstration purposes. Since it has not been completed—I think it will be completed within a fortnight—the tanning expert is engaged in finding out and extracting tannin from the various tanning materials available in Travancore.

The next thing is leather work. I need not say much about the leather work in Travancore, because the members themselves know what the Industrial Department has done in the matter.

They next suggest pottery. Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai also spoke about pottery in Travancore. I may say that we have perfected the technique of pottery-making—at least one branch of it—in Travancore. I have to ask the House whether, according to them, it is the function of the Industrial Department to carry on these industries on a large scale or only to advise the public as to what could be done in the matter. The department is quite ready to place at the disposal of anybody who applies for it, information regarding any industry. I think the department is expected to do only so much.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether the Government are prepared to encourage pottery in the same manner as they have done in the case of the manufacture of sugar.

PRESIDENT: Tha question does not arise here.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mr. Chacko observes that it is not the function of the Government to start any industry and that their function is only to give advice.

PRESIDENT: I do not think he means that.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. K. Khadir Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): That was what he said.

PRESIDENT: What he said was that Government could do only demonstration work and that they could not be expected to start any factory and work on a commercial scale.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): The next thing that the Industrial Commission suggest in their special list is soap-making. We have advanced very far in soap-making and there are soap-making experts in Travancore.

The next industry that they suggest is the essential oil industry. A lot of work has been done by the Industrial Department in this direction and a bulletin has also been published, and any member can have it, if he pleases, by applying to the department.

Then they speak of wood-distillation. This is a very big question in which the Department of Industries and the Forest Department are very keenly interested. We have plenty of raw material here. The difficulty is with regard to the finished products. I think I said at the last Council meeting that the greatest difficulty in wood-distillation was how to dispose of the by-products, such as citric acid, which are produced during the process of distillation. That is the difficulty experienced by most of the wood-distillation factories elsewhere. The wood-distillation factory in Mysore has asked me whether its bye-products can be disposed of in Travancore. Knowing all these facts, how can the Department of Industries ask any body to start a wood-distillation factory in Travancore?

The next thing spoken of by them is dyeing. The Council knows that there is a Dyeing Expert here who has been investigating many of the indigenous dyes in Travancore. He is also demonstrating the methods of using synthetic dyes. This is the list that the Indian Industrial Commission has given.

Almost all these have come within the scope of the Department of Industries in Travancore. But neither the Council nor anybody else should expect results from these investigations within any short time.

MR. T. K. Velu Pillai also pointed out some of the mistakes which the Industrial Department has committed. Such mistakes are quite common in the case of all industries during the experimental stage. We cannot say what all experiments will be successful. Some of our enterprises may prove a failure, and others may prove successful. You cannot blame a department of this kind for some failures.

Then again, I would ask the House to consider whether—

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): How much money was spent by the Industrial Department for the stills made for distillation of lemon grass oil?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I think about Rs. 6,000.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): For how many stills?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Three stills.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Does he find them successful?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I may say they are successful. It is distilling oil, but I admit the cost is too high.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): When compared with the local stills, can it be said that the stills made by the Industrial Department work successfully?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): The cost is much higher in the case of the departmental stills.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are these stills now used by the department?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): One is in use.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): How many are not in use?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Two stills are not in use. One was being used by Mr. Vincent till recently. We had lent the still on hire.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Did the department gain anything on account of these stills?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise here.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I must say that it was not for profit that we made these stills. It was for experiment.

I should ask the House whether it finds that the Industrial Department in Travancore has any defect which the Departments of Industries in British India, Mysore or elsewhere do not have. In making a criticism of this kind, if the member who put forward this resolution had pointed out that a Department of Industries elsewhere has done such and such things while the Department of Industries in Travancore alone—

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will Mr. Chacko be pleased to tell the House how many mistakes of a similar nature to those I have described have been committed by the Departments of Industries in Madras, Bombay, Bengal, Mysore or Baroda?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): It is rather a very large order. It is not possible for me to detail all the defects.

Then again—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I draw the attention of the House to the time limit, Sir?

PRESIDENT: This is an important matter. Very serious allegations have been made against the department. The department has to justify its existence. Therefore, I have to extend the time in this case.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I may be permitted to draw attention to a statement made on a prior occasion by the President, that the President has no discretion in the matter of extending the time.

PRESIDENT: I do not remember having said so at any time. At any rate that is wrong. He is given a discretion. It is for him to use it correctly.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Again, it may not be quite courteous on my part to answer this question.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): One word, Sir. I do not want to take more time. I may say that I am perfectly courteous to all these departments. I have got great interest in them all. Therefore the question of courtesy does not arise here.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): That is not what I meant. It may not be proper for me to stand here and criticise the several Departments of Industries abroad.

PRESIDENT: Will you please hurry up, Mr. Chacko?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): Then, I think, Mr. Sankara Menon said that the Geological Department had not done anything tangible. I should ask him whether he has studied the report of the Geological Survey of India and whether he has found that the work done by the Travancore Geological Department is in any way inferior to the work done by the Geological Survey of India.

Further, about the appointment of a committee, I do not think it is necessary, because there is the Economic Development Board and there is this Council also. The members are at liberty to offer their criticisms to the head of the department. The Economic Development Board can also formulate schemes and submit them to the Government. I do not think the proposed committee can achieve anything more than what this Council can do with its many-sided experience and the wisdom of its many heads.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Does he think that consultations with persons interested in industries can be of use in avoiding mistakes similar to those that have already been suggested?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): I did not quite hear.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): I wish to know whether consultation with persons who are interested in industries as well as the public will be of any service in avoiding mistakes similar to those that have already been suggested.

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Director of Industries*): In fact I do consult whenever I propose any scheme. I consult all the people who, I think, can give me correct advice on the proposal.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, the whole question at issue is whether we should have a committee as suggested by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai or whether the Economic Development Board is itself sufficient to serve the purpose aimed at by the mover of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

resolution. We have been dealing with subjects ranging on several matters by means of interpellations and resolutions, surveying men and matters from China to Peru. We first stepped into the Huzur Secretariat and discovered its rottenness. After dealing with permanent settlement we stepped into paddy fields, and then with mud on our feet we tried our hand at the spinning wheel. Being exhausted with the exertions at the *charka* we had to place ourselves under Ayurvedic treatment, *kshirabala*, *dhanvantaram*, etc. (*Laughter.*) To-day we have been entering into dense forests and not being able to see the wood for the trees we have been visiting fisheries and industrial schools.

The able mover has been cataloguing to us a series of defects in each of the departments he has been dealing with. It is a sad tale of costly experiments most of which have been leading into blind alleys and ending in failures. The present Director of Industries, as Mr. Velu Pillai said, has been having a big legacy of the mistakes of his predecessor. One of the most costly experiments we have been making was the appointment of Dr. Barker *de mortuis nil nisi bonam*. I hope my Latin pronunciation is correct. We have, as heads of the several departments that we have been dealing with, young, energetic and capable officers like Mr. I. C. Chacko, Dr. Kunjan Pillai, Dhanukoti Raja (*laugther*) and Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, full of activity and enthusiasm. They are sons of the soil, in whose hands lie our agricultural and industrial salvation and the proper conservation of the wealth of our forests. But there is always a tendency to run into narrow grooves and travel in narrow rucks. This, perhaps, is due to our environments and our enervating atmosphere. I listened to the speeches on both sides of the House, and from what I could gather from the official side, there is a tendency to fritter away time and beat about the bush. Minor matters are made much of, leaving weightier matters to look after themselves. Before we make new experiments on this, that and the other, what is absolutely necessary is to concentrate on and develop the existing industries. There should be greater co-ordination and thoroughness in all that we already have. There is the coir industry with its tremendous possibilities. There are the lace industry, larger cultivation of tapioca and the manufacture of flour, etc., from the raw products. I asked the question, point-blank, to Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai—I beg his pardon for having made him a Raja—whether he was continuing the policy of his predecessor, and he said: "No." That is the crux of the whole question. That is the weak spot in the administration of our departments. One man comes and introduces something. Another comes and turns it upside down and so on and so forth. (*Laughter.*) There is no continuity of policy, no proper objective. It is all turning in a vicious circle. A little of this, a little of that, and much of nothing. It is just to rise above these mistakes and narrowness that the motion has been brought forward by Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai. He wants a policy, based upon sound principle, experience of the country and knowledge of its people, to be laid down once for all and followed. We want men of the type of the present Chief Secretary or Professor Rangaswami Aiyangar with their long and broad

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

views of things and thorough knowledge and mastery of the economic situation of the country. We want also pensioned officers of the type of Mr. Narayana Menon—who, though old, is still young (*laughter*), and Mr. N. Raman Pillai, the retired Excise Commissioner, to be on the committee proposed by the mover of the resolution. The deliberation of a committee placed on such a high plane is what is asked for. I have, therefore, great pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, the fact that a number of people are not coming forward to talk on this resolution could be explained by the very simple circumstance that all on this side of the House are united with regard to the principle of this resolution. (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Does my friend mean that a member talks only when he does not agree? (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandurm* cum *Nedumangad*): I must answer my friend in this way. People who know how to talk and people who have anything to talk do talk when they have an opportunity. (*Laughter.*)

The simple question that I raised for the consideration of the House is that, in the light of our previous experience, mistakes a yard long in the list have been perpetrated by the various departments in the State service. In spite of the care with which the Government have been dealing with the problem, the tax-payers' money is being spent without sufficient justification. So I demand that the question be well threshed out. I ask for a committee not to add to the list that Mr. Chacko has been pleased to read in spite of my protest. I am not here to discuss the merits of adding this industry or that industry to that list. My object in moving this resolution seems to have been misunderstood by him. Mr. Chacko has been referring to the report of the Industrial Commission, as though it is a kind of industrial gospel. I cannot accept all the views contained in that report. No doubt it is a valuable record, but that everything mentioned in it should be religiously read before this Council—that time should be wasted in spite of protests from this side of the House—that points—

PRESIDENT: I am afraid that you cannot reopen that question. What I say is, my ruling must be obeyed. When I said that Mr. Chacko might be allowed to continue, I do not think you can criticise my ruling.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not. The President has got the discretion so far as the ruling is concerned. I am only saying that Mr. Chacko might have taken the hint from me and simply given the arguments which might support him instead of reading out a long catalogue of items to be performed by the provincial Departments of Industries in British India.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

But my question remains still unanswered, and I take it, on the principle of acquiescence which my learned friend Mr. Subba Aiyar knows very well, that this House should come to the conclusion, when the official benches are unable to defend themselves against the fierce remarks that we on this side of the House have made. It has been said that these departments are technical departments. They are to some extent technical. But Mr. Chacko and Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai will remember that in British India these departments are often presided over by I. C. S. officers who go to their work with an extended vision and a very much better equipment than the narrow training of a technical expert. It is because of the light that they bring when they go to work that much good work has been done. There has been a considerable section of opinion in British India in favour of the view that the Directors of Agricultural and Industrial Departments need not be experts but may be people with plenty of enthusiasm, knowledge, courage, character and initiative. I may refer to one or two names in English History which all of us will certainly respect. A technical man, Sir, does not rule the world. Lord Palmerston, when he was made the Secretary of State for Colonies, knew absolutely nothing about them and he asked one of his clerks to go up along with him and show him the colonies on the map. Yet he was one of the most successful colonial ministers of England. Mr. Benjamin Disreli was not a good hand at finance. He came to the business of finance with an open mind and yet he was one of the most successful finance ministers in England. The case of John Bright is equally in point. He was not a tradesman but was a most successful President of the Board of Trade. I have made reference to these names to show that there is no force in the arguments laboriously advanced on the side of the Government. We raised certain definite issues. We have been looking on with helplessness to the causes of mistakes that have been perpetrated by a change of policy consequent on the change of personnel. I may relate one circumstance. Sir, some months back, I had an occasion to talk with a gentleman of position about a proposal on the part of the Government that Ponmudi may be made a popular sanitarium. That gentleman with much experience of men and things in different places told me: "Mr. Velu Pillai, the proposal is very good. But there is no doubt that what is introduced in the time of Dewan A will be superseded when Dewan B comes." That has been the experience in regard to the matters connected with these departments. My object in moving this resolution is not to tie down the hands of these Development Departments but to ask them to follow a certain course which is laid down after due deliberation—deliberation not in the dark chambers of narrow departmental grooves, but in places where that can be taken in, the open scenes of intelligence. I do not want to take up the time of the Council. I take my position once again on the circumstance that, in spite of specific allegations made with reference to the data and figures, Government find it absolutely impossible to support this resolution. Justice, courage and statesmanship—all these require that my friends on the official benches should come forward with open hands and welcome the resolution. Those

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

who are the gainers from the money of the tax-payer owe a duty to the Government and themselves and to the world at large. They should come forward and acknowledge openly that the criticisms are not improper. Co-ordination is required and very sound advice is necessary to enable these Development Departments to carry on the work of nation-building in which the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja are so deeply interested.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I have not to say much by way of reply beyond what I have been saying. With all his rhetoric, so far as I am concerned, Mr T. K. Velu Pillai has not made out a strong case for the appointment of a separate committee when there is already the Economic Development Board. Probably it may be due to the ignorance of what the Board has been doing in this direction. For the information of the House I may say that some of these problems to which Mr. Velu Pillai was referring we have been discussing in that Board. For instance, we had a thorough discussion with regard to the future working of the Co-operative Department, and the conclusion we arrived at was that the Co-operative Registrar, who just returned after a thorough training outside Travancore, was in a better position than the so-called lay members of the Board.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): One word of personal explanation. I am dissatisfied with the Board for the reason that the powers conferred by law are not enough.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise now.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I have been closely following the work of the Economic Development Board. Most of the members of the Board are my personal friends, and I have been studying the documents they have published.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is within the purview of the Board to co-opt members whenever any technical help is necessary, and it is perfectly within the right of the Board to discuss things seriously so that they may be recommended to the Government. When there is a Development Board of that kind, I think it is superfluous to go in for another committee, especially when it is considered that by having a committee you will be tying down the hands of the Development Departments for years together to a policy to which the departments may not agree. For these reasons I consider the appointment of a separate committee superfluous and unnecessary.

PRESIDENT: Do you press your motion, Mr. Velu Pillai?

MR T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Yes.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 13 voting *for* and 20 *against*.

The following resolution was not moved and hence it was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Institution of Competitive Examinations.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

"This Council recommends to the Government that competitive examinations be instituted for recruitment to Government service."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly